

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/715,126  
Amendment filed February 27, 2006  
Reply to OA dated November 29, 2005

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (canceled).

1           Claim 2 (currently amended): An incubator comprising a chamber, the incubator being for  
2           culturing samples on culture containers inside ~~[[a]]~~ the chamber adjusted to predetermined ambient  
3           conditions, the incubator being characterized in that a culture container accommodating rack having  
4           a plurality of culture container accommodating portions is disposed inside the chamber, a culture  
5           container transport device being adapted to move the culture container into or out of a desired culture  
6           container accommodating portion within the chamber, a camera being attached in the chamber and  
7           facing a specified position wherein the culture container is to be photographed, the sample on the  
8           culture container being photographable by transporting the culture container to the specified position,  
9           wherein the specified position wherein the culture container is to be photographed is provided on  
10          a particular accommodating portion of the accommodating rack to make it possible to photograph  
11          the sample on the container accommodated into said accommodating portion.

1           Claim 3 (currently amended): An incubator according to claim 2 ~~for culturing samples on~~  
2           ~~culture containers inside a chamber adjusted to predetermined ambient conditions, the incubator~~

3 ~~being characterized in that a culture container accommodating rack having a plurality of culture~~  
4 ~~container accommodating portions is disposed inside the chamber, a culture container transport~~  
5 ~~device being adapted to move the culture container into or out of a desired culture container~~  
6 ~~accommodating portion within the chamber, a camera being attached in the chamber and facing a~~  
7 ~~specified position wherein the culture container is to be photographed, the sample on the culture~~  
8 ~~container being photographable by transporting the culture container to the specified position,~~  
9 ~~wherein the camera is attached to an output end of a camera drive mechanism, and is driven into the~~  
10 ~~directions of two axes along a surface of the container.~~

1 Claims 4 and 5 (canceled).

1 Claim 6 (withdrawn): An incubator for culturing samples on culture containers inside a  
2 chamber adjusted to predetermined ambient conditions, the incubator being characterized in that a  
3 microscopic observation unit is housed in the chamber, the microscopic observation unit having a  
4 microscopic observation device housed in a shield case with a closed construction, the shield case  
5 having an observation window disposed on a position opposed to a culture container accommodated  
6 in the chamber, the culture container being microscopic observable through the observation window  
7 by the microscopic observation device.

1           Claim 7 (withdrawn): An incubator according to claim 6 wherein the microscopic  
2           observation unit comprises a drive device for moving the microscopic observation device, the drive  
3           device and the microscopic observation device being housed in the shield case.

1           Claim 8 (withdrawn): An incubator according to claim 6 wherein a culture container  
2           transport device for transporting the culture container, and stacker holders for arranging thereon  
3           stackers having a plurality of culture container accommodating racks are arranged inside the  
4           chamber, the microscopic observation unit having a contour wherein the observation unit can be  
5           disposed on the stacker holder in place of the one or a plurality of stackers.

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